



Geography Topic:

North America and locational Knowledge

Year 5

Knowledge and Understanding

National Curriculum Statements

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to locate countries and describe features of North America.
- North America’s environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of: latitude, longitude, Northern hemisphere, Southern hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of a region within North America.
- Physical geography: biomes and vegetation belts, volcanoes and Earthquakes.
- 4 and 6 figure grid reference references, symbols and key (incl OS maps) to build their knowledge of the UK and Wider World.

What? (Key Knowledge)

Capital Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada: Ottawa • USA: Washington • Mexico: Mexico City
5 major countries in North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Panama
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic tundra to sizzling desert
Major Mountain ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North America: Appalachians, Sierra Nevada, Rocky Mountains
Highest mountain peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount McKinley
Facts about North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North America consists of twenty four countries • The Panama Canal is a man-made 77km canal that links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans • The line between North and South America lies somewhere in the isthmus of Panama
Largest Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Superior (USA and Canada)
Major river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mississippi
Well-known Volcanoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount St. Helens • Mount Rainier
Landmarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niagara Falls

Know how to...

- Locate the key places (above) on maps, globes and digital computer mapping
- Present information knowledgably about North America
- Use 8 compass points and use 6 figure grid references
- Make a map including landmarks, using simple symbols in a key

Key Vocabulary (NC in green)

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Country	An area of land that is controlled by its own government
Continent	A large area of the land on Earth that is joined together
Latitude	Imaginary horizontal lines that circle the Earth parallel to the equator
Longitude	Imaginary vertical lines that stretch from the North Pole to the South Pole
Meridians	Another name for lines of longitude
Prime meridian	Also called the Greenwich meridian, an imaginary line that runs from the North pole to the south pole and passes through Greenwich, England
Time zone	time zone one of the areas into which the world is divided where the time is calculated as being a particular number of hours behind or ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)
Tropic of Cancer	The imaginary line that is about 23° North of the equator
Tropic of Capricorn	The imaginary line that is about 23° South of the equator
Tropics	The region of Earth's surface that is closest to the Equator
Biomes	A specific environment that's home to living things suited for that place and climate
Vegetation belt	An area with distinct plant types.
Northern Hemisphere	The half of the globe lying north of the equator.
Southern hemisphere	The half of the globe lying south of the equator.
Human geography	Features of land that have been impacted by human activity.
Physical geography	Natural features of land.

